

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for storing items comprising:
a freestanding support;
a base rigidly connected to the support; and
a plurality of extensions ~~having a pivot end and a securable end~~
~~and pivotally connected to the support and~~ including attachment members for
directly engaging and supporting articles of fabric receiving items, wherein the
extensions may pivotably be moved between a first position ~~where the securable~~
~~end of the extension is generally parallel with~~ disposed a first distance from the
support and a second position at an angle relative to ~~where the securable end is~~
~~generally disposed a greater distance from the support, the attachment members~~
adapted to directly engage and support the articles of fabric when the extensions
are in both the first and second positions.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support is a
generally vertical post.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the
extensions ~~may pivot between a position~~ extend generally horizontally from the
support ~~and a position generally vertical~~ when in the second position.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the
extensions each include a securable end of the extension may be for being secured

to the support when in the first position to provide the support for the articles of fabric directly engaged therewith ~~of being disposed the first distance.~~

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~6 wherein each securable end of each extension is ~~provided~~ secured in the first position with a latch mechanism.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the latch mechanisms are disposed within the support and selectively operated to release ~~selectively~~ the securable end of the extension to permit pivoting between the first and second positions.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base permits rotation of the apparatus around its central longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently Amended) A clothing rack for organizing and storing clothing comprising:

~~a post;~~

~~a base wherein the base permits the rotation of the rack around its central longitudinal axis without translation relative to a surface on which the rack is set; and~~

a post supported on the base;

a latch mechanism disposed within an opening in the post; and

~~a plurality of extensions~~ an extension adjustably positioned connected to the post and movable between a first position to provide access to clothing items

stored thereon and a second position to provide a compact arrangement to minimize the space required for storing and organizing the clothing, the extension including a securable end adapted to be inserted into the opening in the post and secured thereto by the latch mechanism when the extension is in the compact arrangement to provide support for the clothing items.

12. (Original) The clothing rack of claim 11 wherein the extensions include a plurality of attachment members for permitting clothing to be secured to the extensions.

13. (Original) The clothing rack of claim 12 wherein the attachment members are hooks.

14. (Original) The clothing rack of claim 12 wherein the attachment members are clamps.

15. (Original) The clothing rack of claim 12 wherein a portion of the attachment members may rotate independently of the extension.

16. (Currently Amended) A clothing rack for organizing and storing clothing comprising:

a post;

a base rigidly ~~connected to~~ supporting the post in a generally upright freestanding position;

a plurality of ~~sets of~~ extensions radially disposed from the post and adjustably positioned between an access position to provide access to clothing

items stored thereon and a compact position to provide a compact arrangement to minimize the space required for storing and organizing the clothing; and
attachment members ~~depending~~permanently extending from each extension for directly engagingly securing clothing items, the attachment members being freely movable relative to each extension to maximize the compact arrangement of the clothing items when the extensions are in the compact position.

17. (Currently Amended) The clothing rack of claim 16 wherein a first set of the plurality of extensions is disposed in a position above a second set of the plurality of extensions.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The clothing rack of 16 wherein each extension may be independently and selectively positioned.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the each of the attachment members include one of a hook and a clamp.

22. (New) The clothing rack of claim 11, wherein the latch mechanism includes a resilient latch mechanism having a horizontally extending rod adapted for vertical displacement and engagement with the securable end of the extension.

23. (New) The clothing rack of claim 16, wherein each of the active attachment members include a manually operable clamp.

24. (New) The clothing rack of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of extensions disposed within the post for selectively securing the plurality of extensions in the compact position and supporting the clothing items thereon.